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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER	
KIM, HAROLD J	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2182	

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/003,495	FRANZEL, KENNETH S.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harold Kim	2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 February 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-34* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *22 October 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-34 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 17-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Movall et al., US Patent no. 6,89,405.

4. In re claim 17, Movall et al. shows a network backplane interface [fig 1A, 1B; col 10, line 49] for a local network [col 10, line 49], comprising:

(a) a plurality of sockets [col 8, line 27, lines 48-50; PCI slot connector, DASD slot connector, fig 1B] for receiving plug-in network devices;

(b) power lines to one or more sockets for powering a plug-in network device in each socket [2, fig 1B; col 12, lines 34-37; col 11, lines 1-3];

(c) communication lines to each socket for communication with the plug-in network devices [19, 5, 15 in fig 1B]; and

(d) a configuration module for configuration of one or more plug-in devices, wherein the configuration module communicates with each plug-in device in each socket to identify the plug-in device and configure the plug-in device for network communication [col 8, line 57 to col 9, line 27; col 12, lines 6-33].

5. In re claim 18, Movall et al. shows

(1) memory [col 12, line 24]for storing configuration instructions for configuring one or more different plug-in devices, and

(2) processor [col 12, lines 21-30] for executing the configuration instructions to communicate with a plug-in device in a socket, and configure that device for network communication.

6. In re claim 19, Movall et al. shows a configuration memory [col 12, line 24] having configuration information for a plurality of predetermined plug-in device types [col 13, lines 1-15].

7. In re claim 20, Movall et al. shows extended configuration memory [col 12, lines 10-15] for storing configuration information for additional device types.

8. In re claim 21, Movall et al. shows the configuration module provides configuration of plug-in devices in a configuration session [col 13, lines 39-45].

9. In re claim 22, Movall et al. shows configures all plug-in devices in one configuration session [col 13, lines 39-45].

10. In re claim 23, Movall et al. shows a platform-independent configuration software [col 10, lines 35-44].

11. In re claim 24, Movall et al. shows a user interface for receiving user configuration commands [col 9, lines 15-18].

12. In re claim 25. A network interface module [fig 1A, 1B; col 10, line 49] for a local network [col 10, line 49], comprising:

(a) a plurality of sockets [[col 8, line 27, lines 48-50; PCI slot connector, DASD slot connector, fig 1B] for receiving plug-in network devices;

(b) power lines to one or more sockets for powering a plug-in network device in each socket [2, fig 1B; col 12, lines 34-37; col 11, lines 1-3];

(c) a switch connected to each socket allowing communication with the plug-in network devices [7, fig 1B]; and

(d) a configuration module for configuration of one or more plug-in devices, wherein the configuration module communicates with each plug-in device in each socket to identify the plug-in device and configure the plug-in device for network communication [col 8, line 57 to col 9, line 27; col 12, lines 6-33].

13. Claims 26-33 are rejected under the same rationale as discussed above in claims 18-24.

14. In re claim 34, Movall et al. shows a printed circuit board [7, fig 1B].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 1-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Movall et al., US Patent no. 6,289,405, in view of Beard et al., USPGPUB no. 2003/0011524.

17. In re claim 1, Movall et al. shows a network backplane interface [fig 1A, 1B; col 10, line 49] for a local network [col 10, line 49], comprising:

(a) a circuit board [figs 1A, 1B];

(b) a plurality of sockets [col 8, line 27, lines 48-50; PCI slot connector, DASD slot connector, fig 1B] connected to the circuit board for receiving plug-in network devices;

(c) power lines on the circuit board to one or more sockets for powering a plug-in network device in each socket [2, fig 1B; col 12, lines 34-37; col 11, lines 1-3];

(d) communication lines on the circuit board to each socket for communication with the plug-in network devices [19, 5, 15 in fig 1B] and

(e) a housing for the circuit board, power lines and communication lines [1, fig 1A].

Movall et al. does not explicitly show a housing including opening for exposing the sockets. However, it is very well known in the art of computer that having a housing including opening for exposing the socket as shown in Beard et al. [330, fig 9]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have the housing as shown in Beard et al. in the Movall et al.'s system because it is well known in the art of computer and it would provide more flexible by allowing to accept wide variety of peripheral devices that requires specific sockets or interfaces.

18. In re claim 2, Movall et al. shows a communication controller [8, fig 1A] which allows communication between the plug-in devices.

19. In re claim 3, Movall et al. a configuration circuit [VPD, figs 1A, 1B; col 8, lines 29-34] on the circuit board which provides configuration of one or more plug-in devices.

20. In re claim 4, Movall et al. shows the configuration circuit communicates with a plug-in device in a socket to identify the plug-in device and configure the plug-in device for network communication [col 9, lines 5-27; col 10, lines 47-61].

21. In re claim 5, Movall et al. shows (1) memory [col 12, line 24] for storing configuration instructions for configuring one or more plug-in devices, and (2) processor [col 12, lines 21-30] for executing the configuration instructions to network communication.

22. In re claim 6, Movall et al. shows a configuration memory [col 12, line 24] having configuration information for a plurality of predetermined plug-in device types [col 13, lines 1-15].

23. In re claim 7, Movall et al. shows extended configuration memory [col 12, lines 10-15] for storing configuration information for additional device types.

24. In re claim 8, Movall et al. shows an embedded configuration module [col 13, lines 39-45] to configure plug-in devices in a configuration session.

25. In re claim 9, Movall et al. shows the configuration module configures all plug-in devices in one configuration session [col 13, lines 39-45].

26. In re claim 10, Movall et al. shows a platform-independent configuration software [col 10, lines 35-44].

27. In re claim 11, Movall et al. shows a user interface for receiving user configuration commands [col 9, lines 15-18].

28. In re claim 12, Movall et al. shows at least one socket is dedicated to connection and communication with an external network [20, fig 1B].

29. In re claim 16, Movall et al. shows a socket comprises a proprietary connector combining power and data connections [PCI slot connector; col 11, lines 1-3].

30. **Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Movall et al., US Patent no. 6,289,405, in view of Beard et al., USPGPUB no. 2003/0011524 as applied to claims above, in further view of Trans, USPGPUB no. 2002/0181633.**

31. In re claims 13-15, The combination of Movall et al. and Beard et al. does not show a security module and a RJ-45 socket. However, the security module and the RJ-45 are well known in the art of computer communication to have the secure module for having secure communication and the RJ-45 socket for communicating with a device that require RJ-45 socket as shown in Trans. Trans shows a security module [paragraph 0100, line 17-18] and RJ-45 [paragraph 0200, line 12] for Ethernet UTP applications. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have the security module and the RJ-45 socket because it would provide secure and more flexible system by allowing it to operate in multiple configurations.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Further references of interest are cited on Form PLO-892, which is attachment to this office action.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the central telephone number (571) 272-2100.

Direct any inquiries concerning drawing review to the Drawing Review Branch (703) 305-8404.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harold Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-4148. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 571-272-4083. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Harold J. Kim
Patent Examiner
June 27, 2005/HK

ILWOO PARK
PRIMARY EXAMINER